

REMARKS

Claims 15-24 were pending when last examined. With this Response, Applicants have amended claims 15-24 and added new claims 30-33. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendment can be found at least in FIG. 1 and the corresponding description in the specification.

Claim Objections

Claim 22 was objected to because of informalities. Claim 22 has been amended to correct the informality.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,778,182 to Cathey et al. (“Cathey”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claim 15, as amended, recites a method for processing user history data. The method includes recording a user action item, assigning a program identifier and a user action type to the user action item, and specifying whether information in the user action item is protected.

Cathey discloses techniques for tracking usage of applications available to subscribers. Cathey, however, fails to disclose specifying whether information in a user action item is protected, as required by the claim. Because Cathey fails to disclose at least this limitation, claim 15 should be allowed. Claims 16, 18, 20, and 21 depend from claim 15, and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 22, as amended, recites a method for processing user history data. The method includes recording a user action item having user action type and assigning protection information to the recorded user action item, the protection information specifying whether information in the user action item is protected. As discussed above with reference to claim 15, Cathey fails to disclose, at least, specifying whether information in the user action item is

protected. Thus, claim 22 should be allowed. Claim 24 depends from claim 22 and is allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cathey in view of “Cinelmage” (Vol. 7, No. 1, March 2000). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 17 depends from claim 15. As discussed above with reference to claim 15, Cathey fails to disclose specifying whether information in the user action item is protected. Cinelmage is equally lacking. Because neither Cathey nor Cinelmage discloses this limitation, no *prima facie* case has been established and claim 17 is allowable.

Claims 19 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cathey in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,349,410 to Lortz (“Lortz”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 19 depends from claim 15 and claim 23 depends from claim 22. As discussed above with reference to claims 15 and 22, Cathey fails to disclose specifying whether information in the user action item is protected. Lortz is equally lacking. Because neither Cathey nor Lortz discloses this limitation, no *prima facie* case has been established and claims 19 and 23 are allowable.

New Claims

New claims 30-33 depend from claim 15 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as their base claim.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the Application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (415) 772-7493.

No additional fees are required for this amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1597.

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

2/23/06

Date

Richard A. Post

Signature

Respectfully submitted,



By:

Ferenc Pazmandi

Agent of Record

Limited Recognition No. L0078

FP/rp

February 23, 2006

SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP
555 California Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94104-1715
(415) 772-1200